

## Message Text

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20

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 SCI-06 FEA-02 SAM-01 OMB-01 INT-08

EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 DRC-01 AEC-11 SAB-01 SAJ-01

/167 W

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R 170915Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7871

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BU, IZ

SUBJECT: ZHIVKOV'S VISIT TO IRAQ

REF: SOFIA 0454

1. BULGARIANS HAVE PLAYED UP ZHIVKOV APRIL 8-11 VISIT TO IRAQ AS "COMPLETE SUCCESS", BUT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT IRAQIS ALTERED THEIR STAND ON SUPPLYING BULGARIA WITH CRUDE OIL AT PREFERENTIAL PRICE.

2. COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER VISIT IS PARTICULARLY STRONG IN ITS ATTACK ON "ZIONIST IMPERIALISM" AND HAS UNUSUAL CONDEMNATION OF "RECENTLY INTENSIFIED EFFORTS OF IMPERIALIST, REACTIONARY, ZIONIST CIRCLES TO UNDERMINE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN ARAB PEOPLES AND SOCIALIST COUNTRIES WITH THE PURPOSE OF RESTORING THEIR IN-

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FLUENCE IN SOME PARTS OF REGION, OF DEALING BLOW TO

ARAB NATIONAL-LIBERATION MOVEMENT AND FOR ENDING THE INDEPENDENT POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF ARAB PEOPLES." COMMUNIQUE ALSO NAMES US AS SUPPORTING "INCESSANT VIOLATIONS" OF PARIS ACCORDS BY "SAIGON ADMINISTRATION," STRONGEST LANGUAGE ON THIS ISSUE WE HAVE SEEN IN BULGARIAN COMMUNIQUE FOR SOME TIME.

3. BOTH SIDES AGREED TO BEGIN TALKS AIMED AT ESTABLISHING VISA-FREE REGIME, NEW CULTURAL AGREEMENT FOR 1974-75 AND VETERINARY AGREEMENT. ONLY OTHER CONCRETE ACCORD WAS ON "REGULAR EXCHANGE OF VISITS" BETWEEN BCP AND BAATH PARTIES.

4. BULGARIAN MEDIA WENT ALL OUT IN COVERING VISIT, POINTING TO IT AS "MILESTONE IN BULGARIA'S RELATIONS WITH ARAB PEOPLES."

5. WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT ENTHUSIASTIC MEDIA COVERAGE IS EFFORT TO MASK FAILURE BY BULGARS TO ACHIEVE ANY BREAKTHROUGH ON QUESTION OF WHETHER THEY WILL RECEIVE PREFERENTIAL PRICE ON IRAQI CRUDE IN RETURN FOR INVESTMENT IN IRAQI GAS FIELDS. FAILURE, FOR EXAMPLE, TO MENTION CONCRETE ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS IN COMMUNIQUE WOULD INDICATE THAT SERIOUS PROBLEMS REMAIN. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS VISIT WITH BULGARS, ONE MEMBER OF ZHIVKOV'S PARTY DESCRIBED VISIT TO EMBOFF AS "DULL". BULGARS, HOWEVER, MAY NOT BE UNDER AS GREAT PRESSURE NOW TO OBTAIN GUARANTEED SUPPLY OF CRUDE. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER POPOV TOLD AMBASSADOR RECENTLY THAT ENERGY-SAVING MEASURES HAD REDUCED BULGARIA'S NEED FOR ARB OIL TO 1 MILLION TONS IN 1974, 50 PERCENT CUT OVER PREVIOUS ESTIMATES. NONETHELESS, WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT GOB REMAINS HOPEFUL THAT SOME ARRANGMENTS CAN BE WORKED OUT WITH BAGHDAD.  
HERZ

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